



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Commissioner Releases Winter-Weather Advisory

Education Commissioner Peter McWalters issued following advisory this afternoon to all School Superintendents:

After consulting with Dr. Patricia A. Nolan, director of the R.I. Department of Health, and the R.I. School Superintendents Association, I am advising district administrators to carefully review their transportation protocols and the situation regarding children who walk to school as they determine whether to open schools tomorrow.

The National Weather Service has issued a Wind Chill Advisory, which is in effect until 4 p.m. tomorrow afternoon. The Weather Service notes that it may be dangerous to be outdoors for extended periods and that skin may freeze after 10 minutes of exposure.

District administrators of course will make the final decision regarding whether to close their schools tomorrow, based on their own assessment of the capabilities of their transportation system and their district to handle severe-weather situations.

If, after review of their transportation systems and the situation regarding children who walk to school, administrators believe that children may be exposed for too long to the cold weather, I advise that they close the schools in their district tomorrow.

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